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City of Phoenix Candidates – General Election 2020

The Arizona Green Chamber is a non-partisan organization that is working to improve Arizona's future by promoting sustainability-minded companies, products and services. We would like to gain a better understanding of your position on a variety of issues that affect our members and Phoenix. Thank you in advance for providing your thoughts on the questions below by returning this questionnaire to info@azgreenchamber.org by September 18, 2020.

1. Issue: enterprises and citizens. What do you think are the best policies to inform and incentivize businesses and citizens to adopt energy upgrades, sustainable transportation, and other green infrastructure practices?

I have lived in Arizona since the age of 5 years. Over the years I have witnessed the tremendous population growth and economic development expansion in and around Phoenix, including enduring the prolonged and intense summer heat waves. For energy upgrades for citizens I support expansion of weatherization programs, solar energy and promotion of AZ's Energy Efficient Mortgages Program for new homeowners and energy efficient rebates. More needs to be done to expand home energy audits and incentives to transition to energy star appliances. Equally important is efficient energy use in buildings and use of green materials as well as taking a look at building energy codes.

For sustainable transportation I support the expansion of electrical business for public transportation, the completion of light rail master plan, and use of renewable fuels. Other green infrastructure practices I support are implementation of urban tree canopies, the use of permeable pavements and green alleys, parking and streets. In South Phoenix, community leaders were able to work with Valley Metro and the City of Phoenix to include several bioswales in the design of the South Central Light Rail Extension. I also believe the City of Phoenix should partner with federal agencies to secure funding to offer loan guarantees to encourage commercial use of new and improved technologies.

2. Issue: water. Given the current strain on water resources due to a 20+ drought in the watershed that supplies the Central Arizona Project, what policies, strategies or incentives would you either pursue or support, if elected, to ensure our long-term water supply?

For the City of Phoenix I will encourage older neighborhoods in District 7 to transition from grass lawn to xeriscape landscaping. I believe it's important to provide public education and build awareness that 70% of water used by residents is for outdoor watering. For the newer neighborhoods I will encourage homeowner associations to participate in the water efficiency program to increase landscape water efficiency in green belts. I also support incentivizing home water audits and water saving products for irrigation and indoor use. Furthermore, I believe it is important to understand grey water and grey water uses (effluent) to reduce use of groundwater and implement practices for smart water use. Other Arizona cities have adopted rainwater retention with investments in communities of color. Phoenix

should follow. And finally, I believe the plumes of toxic contaminated groundwater negotiations should be centered by residents of the City of Phoenix who are directly impacted while balanced with corporate needs of water retention and water security.

3. Issue: renewable energy. If elected, what policies, strategies or incentives would you pursue or support to encourage the growth of renewable energy jobs? What policies, strategies or incentives would you pursue or support to encourage the use of renewable energy by citizens?

The growth of renewable energy jobs in Arizona is encouraging, in particular the opportunity to invest in career and technical education for good jobs that stay in our community. Jobs that produce or manufacture products for energy efficiency are important to help reduce personal energy consumption. The production of energy producing solar panels on parking lots and buildings are jobs that help produce renewable energy and provide jobs for the local workforce. I support incentivizing companies in renewable energy.

4. Issue: waste and recycling. A number of Valley municipalities have had to limit, or even altogether abandon, recycling efforts due to the inability to find third party companies willing to handle and process recycled materials. If elected, what policies, strategies or incentives would you either pursue or support to address this situation?

People make pollution; people have to clean it up. For sustainable materials management I would support a move to counter plastic waster by incentivizing the use of biodegradable packaging and materials that are environment-friendly. I also support the adoption of zero-water policies to reduce, reuse and recycle to support sustainable waste disposal and waste reduction. Encouraging the use of home composting as a measure that can help reduce waste. I support the recent move by the city to recycle asphalt. Expanding education on recycling should be an ongoing effort. And finally, I support the use of green bin for businesses.

5. Issue: heat mitigation. The entire Valley has seen a steady rise in the last few decades of higher average temperatures during the summer months. If elected, what policies, strategies or incentives would you either pursue or support to mitigate the human and economic impacts of increasing heat?

In Phoenix, we should make every effort to support the implementation of Tree and Shade Master Plan integrated with pedestrian, bicycle and transit plans. The asphalt pavement pilot project by the City of Phoenix is a step in the right direction and similar to Los Angeles initiative to paint roads white to reduce the heat island effect. The use of gardens both small and larger scale help cool the temperatures in neighborhoods, such as the Spaces of Opportunities in South Phoenix.

6. Issue: carbon emissions and air pollution. What policies, strategies or incentives would you pursue, support or incentivize to reduce carbon emissions and help clean the air?

To reduce carbon emissions and air pollution to help clean the air we breathe, I believe Phoenix has to do a better job of public information and education to raise awareness of the severity of problem. I recall years ago when the inversion effect was an issue in the winter, when the dark cloud hangs above the city. Now this has become a year-round problem. More efforts needs to be made to seriously

promote telecommute to work, using public transportation, rideshare/carpool and bike to work, and the use of electric or hybrid cars. Driving smart and less will help cut down on emissions. These efforts need to be incentivized to get more of the population to cooperate and drive less.

7. Issue: resilient energy hubs. Some Valley governments have adopted plans to address the human risks of rising temperatures. One idea is to create “resilience hubs” at fire stations, community centers, schools and churches that are outfitted with solar panels and battery storage. In the event of an emergency that compromises the electrical grid, these resilience hubs will ensure that first responders and evacuees have access to electricity and cooling. If elected, would you advocate, support or incentivize a similar concept?

Once elected, I will advocate, support and incentive the idea of "resilience hubs." The idea is a common sense approach to preparing for emergencies to come in the near future. As the summer heat prolongs and the heat continues to place pressure on the power grid that provides electricity, I believe we need to think about how to improve the future emergency preparedness plans using trusted community locations. As a school board member, I know first-hand how important this local community institution is for neighborhoods to access resources.

8. Issue: healthy food systems. Sustainable access to healthy, sustainable, abundant, sources of food have risen to be a critical issues for all levels of society. Solutions have included increased access to farmers markets, encouraging urban agriculture, reducing food waste, government coordination with local farmers, the creation of detailed food security plans, the dedication of personnel to improve access, and more. What is your point of view on the related issues of food security and reducing food waste?

District 7 has a higher per-capita number of neighborhoods when compared to other districts that are considered food deserts. Many families live in areas considered food swamps, where the only places to buy food are fast food restaurants. Families are subject to food apartheid resulting from the lack of availability of healthy food. The Coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the economic inequalities of working poor families in South Phoenix and the Maryvale community. Despite these and many other challenges, people persist and are resilient. I was involved in a community-wide meeting in South Phoenix in 2019 to discuss the potential formation of a farmer's market on Central Ave. Issues that surfaced as identified by community leaders and partners were: the need for a commercial community kitchen to support small food micro-enterprises, support the expansion of additional urban farms that produce culturally appropriate produce for local food consumption. Another idea was the need to facilitate engagement between small farm growers and buyers on issues of processing and distribution.